



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Health Services  
Director of Planning  
Director of Public Works

At its meeting held July 22, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“On January 1, 2003, the Director of Health Services, acting as the health authority, clarified the Los Angeles County Plumbing Code requirements for potable water. Based on a recommendation of the State Department of Health Services, the County Department of Health Services determined that hauled water is not a reliable source of water that is appropriate for drinking, culinary, and domestic purposes. It was also determined that hauled water does not provide the equivalent level of public health protection or reliability as a permitted public water system or an approved on-site source of supply.

“Additionally, there is an increased risk of contamination of the water during the transfer of water from the tanker trucks to on-site storage facilities. The Department of Health Services’ Office of Acute Communicable Disease Control concurs with this determination that hauled water is not appropriate as safe reliable source of potable water.

“However, consideration needs to be given to the history of property owners being allowed to use hauled water as a source of supply. For more than 15 years, the Department of Public Works has been issuing permits to property owners allowing hauled water as a permissible water source. Currently, the Water Availability Policy has disadvantaged some Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita Valley/Agua Dulce property owners who were in the process of completing the necessary work to obtain a building permit before they became aware that water availability would affect their ability to develop their property.

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“Also, the policy does not give consideration to the fact that in some areas of the County the availability of adequate and sustainable groundwater may be limited by geology or contamination. It is disruptive to property owners to implement the Water Availability Policy prior to developing a transition plan and implementing alternative solutions.”

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, Director of Public Health, Department of Health Services, Jim Noyes, Director of Public Works and Richard Wagener, Acting Director, Bureau of Environmental Protection, Department of Health Services, addressed the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Antonovich made a motion that the Board instruct the Directors of Health Services, Public Works and Planning to:

1. Reevaluate the Water Availability Policy with recommendations to address the severe impact to residents caused by the determination that hauled water is not appropriate as a safe, reliable source of potable water, and that water availability affects the ability to develop their property;
2. Develop and implement a transition plan that includes alternative solutions for properties without an available supply of potable groundwater;
3. Report back to the Board within 30 days on steps that can be taken immediately to eliminate the negative impact of the Water Availability Policy on the property owners who were processing paperwork to develop their property when the Policy took effect, and on those who want to develop property; and
4. Convene community meetings in the Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita Valley/Agua Dulce areas to ascertain the water source needs and long-range plans for meeting those needs, with a report back to the Board within 90 days.

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Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a suggestion that Supervisor Antonovich's motion be amended as follows:

1. Amend Recommendation Number 1 to instruct the Directors of Health Services, Public Works and Planning to prepare a report on the advisability of reevaluating the Water Availability Policy with recommendations to address the severe impact to residents caused by the determination that hauled water is not appropriate as a safe, reliable source of potable water, and that water availability affects the ability to develop their property; and
2. Delete Supervisor Antonovich's recommendation to develop and implement a transition plan that includes alternative solutions for properties without an available supply of potable groundwater.

Supervisor Antonovich accepted Supervisor's Yaroslavsky's amendment.

Supervisor Antonovich's motion, as amended, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, was unanimously carried.

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